

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Project: Dalang Project – School fluoride varnish program

Principal Researcher: Dr Kylie Gwynne

Researchers: Yvonne Dimitropoulos, Alexander Holden, Michelle Irving, Angela Masoe, Steven Naoum, John Skinner, Heiko Spallek.

Research Organisation: Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, the University of Sydney.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney is working together with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and schools to implement the Dalang Project. The Dalang Project is a program which includes providing dental treatment for Aboriginal children and delivering health promotion for all children at local schools.

As part of the health promotion provided through the Dalang Project, the school will be participating in a school fluoride varnish program to help prevent tooth decay in children.

(1) About the research project

This research project will assess if school based fluoride varnish programs are efficient and meet the needs of the local community to help prevent tooth decay in children. The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health is seeking your consent for your child to take part in this project.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

This research is being undertaken in partnership by the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, the University of Sydney, the NSW Centre for Oral Health Strategy and various Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across NSW including: Armajun Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Pius X Aboriginal Corporation, Durri Aboriginal Corporation, Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and Katungul Aboriginal Medical Service.

(3) What does the study involve?

As part of the program, all children are eligible to receive a free application of fluoride varnish onto their teeth, once per term, at school by an appropriately trained Dental Assistant from the local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. Fluoride varnish is concentrated fluoride gel which is safe, and had been shown to prevent tooth decay if applied regularly.

The fluoride varnish being applied is Duraphat fluoride varnish which is manufactured by Colgate.

This is a free, preventive dental treatment from your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service however it does not replace a regular dental examination or dental treatment that may be required. The application of fluoride varnish is not likely to be upsetting or uncomfortable for your child, however they will be asked to not eat for 30 minutes following the application.

The fluoride varnish is yellow in colour and will stick to your child's teeth. You may notice it when your child returns home from school. Your child will be able to eat, drink and brush their teeth normally on the night of the application and the varnish will wear off after it has absorbed into the teeth in 1 – 2 days.

(4) How much time will the study take?

We expect that each fluoride varnish application will take 10 minutes. There will be 1 each term, a total of 4 applications over 12 months.

(5) Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your child is not obliged to participate under any circumstances.

If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your relationship or the services you or child receive from the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or the school.

If you do choose for your child to participate, you are also able to withdraw at any time. If you choose to withdraw, it will not affect your relationship or the services you receive from the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or the school.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential. Only the researchers will have access to information on participants.

Once the research project is complete, the final report of the study will be made available to the community at the local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service by members of the research team. You and the school will be invited to attend and listen to the results.

Results will be submitted for publication and may be presented at an academic conference but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report or presentation.

(7) Will the study benefit my child?

Fluoride varnish when applied to the teeth regularly, alongside regular tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste, has been shown to reduce tooth decay in children.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, please feel free to tell other people about this study.

(9) What if I require further information?

If you require further information you can ask the dental staff from your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service for more information.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact the Principal Researcher of this project Ms Kylie Gwynne on 02 9036 6494.

(10) What if I have a complaint or concerns?

**Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the
Chairperson of the AH&MRC Ethics Committee.
P.O. Box 1565 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 Telephone: 9212 4777**

(11) What do I need to do?

If you agree for your child to take part in the project, please complete the consent form attached and return it to the school.

THIS INFORMATION SHEET IS FOR YOU TO KEEP.